

Montana State Library

This cover sheet created by Internet Archive for formatting.

328.05
L131
V.8 No.16

Montana State Library



3 0864 1004 4223 8

ORIGINALS

THE INTERIM

The Monthly Report
of Legislative
Activity



A Publication of



Montana Legislative Council

SEPTEMBER 1992 HELENA, MONTANA VOL. VIII NO. 16

PLEASE RETURN

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Appropriations Report Mailed...The Legislative Fiscal Analyst (LFA) mailed an Appropriations Report summarizing the budget-related actions taken during the July 1992 Special Session to all legislators and state agencies in early August.

Revenue and Expenditure Report Still Available...A limited number of copies of the Montana Historical Revenue and Expenditure Report, Fiscal 1979-1991 are still available by calling the LFA office at 444-2986. This report provides details of state revenue collections (general fund, school equalization account, and total funds) and state expenditures by agency and function during the period 1979 through 1991. Many legislators have found the report to be a useful reference document.

Committee to Meet in September...The Legislative Finance Committee will meet on Monday, September 28, to discuss reports on the fiscal 1993 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes, foster care costs, and the budget amendment process.

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

SEP 17 1992

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6th AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

COMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION POLICY AND BUDGET

Committee Meets in August...The Joint Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget met on August 21 in the State Capitol.

Nursing Education...The Committee heard a background report on nursing education programs in the state and a presentation from the Training of Health Care Professionals and Improvement to Allied Health Care Services Subcommittee of the Governor's Committee on Health Care for Montanans.

Regents' "Commitment to Quality" Effort...The Committee heard a staff report on the proposals for increasing quality and per student expenditures in the Montana University System (MUS) that comprise the Regents' Commitment to Quality effort. The Board of Regents is currently examining nine proposals that specifically target the student population and an additional four system-wide proposals, known as the "Nine Plus Four" plan. The Committee voted to indicate its support for each of the "Plus Four" proposals and eight of the "Nine" proposals. However, the Committee deferred any vote on the remaining proposal, which calls for the establishment of mandated enrollment caps at each of the six university units. Committee members expressed concern that the caps should be based upon other factors such as income, cost of living, and tax effort and capacity, rather than exclusively on peer expenditure levels. Higher education representatives on the Committee told the Committee that the Board of Regents would proceed with work on enrollment caps, but that the caps would be adjusted if the Board constructs a method that incorporates other factors in determining caps. The Committee will discuss this issue again at its next meeting.

Duplication of Programs...The Committee received an update on the current examination by the Board of Regents of program duplication in the MUS and voted to express its view that duplication of programs was not a "significant" factor in the MUS.

Transferability of Credits...The Committee received an update on efforts currently underway within the MUS to complete a comprehensive transfer guide on courses offered in each of the units of the MUS, as well as the tribal colleges. The Committee voted to endorse the efforts of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Board of Regents in the preparation of the completed core curriculum transfer guide and their efforts to complete and publish the comprehensive transfer guide.

Additional Reports and Discussions...The Committee received updates from Commissioner of Higher Education on three issues:

- 1) the study authorized by the Board of Regents on the role and scope of athletic programs within the MUS;
- 2) the study of administrative expenses and structure in the MUS required by the Legislature during the July special session. A consultant will be hired, with the costs borne by the units of the MUS (including the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education). The report should be completed by the time the 53rd Legislature convenes in January; and
- 3) potential impacts to the six university units due to action taken in the July special session of the Legislature.

The Committee also received a staff report on administrative expenses per data compiled in fiscal 1990.

To Meet Again in October...The next meeting of the Committee will be on October 9, 1992 in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Committee Holds Final Meeting...The Subcommittee on Children and Families met for the fifth and final time this interim on Thursday, August 20, and concluded its study plan by taking affirmative action on the following recommendations:

- 1) creation of a family policy act to guide all state policies that impact children and families;
- 2) establishment of a legislative oversight committee to monitor and promote policy changes in human services delivery in the state during the next interim;
- 3) support for the further exploration of human services refinancing options being currently pursued by Department of Family Services and Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services;
- 4) designing a formal interagency structure to collaborate on prevention-related functions of the state;
- 5) supporting the development and funding for early intervention pilot programs designed by local communities and the Healthy Start Montana Task Force prior to the 1993 session; and

6) creating increased flexibility and accountability for the Children's Trust Fund Board by expanding membership, staff, and duties of the Board.

Staff to Draft Legislation... Subcommittee staff was directed to draft legislation in the above areas for wide circulation among interested parties and legislators. Final approval of the draft legislation and the final report to the 53rd Legislature will be concluded by conference calls to be announced at a later date.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FUNDING

Subcommittee to Meet in September...The Subcommittee on School Funding will meet Friday, September 18, 1992 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 104 of the State Capitol. The main topics of discussion be the following:

- 1) a comprehensive look at school transportation issues;
- 2) a study of the feasibility of an extended school year as directed by HJR 49;
- 3) final approval of draft legislation to equalize school capital outlay costs through a guaranteed tax base proposal; and
- 4) further investigation of school administrative costs.

Reports on school transportation issues and a draft of the capital outlay equalization bill are available from Legislative Council staff.

REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Crow Coal Case Continues...At its August 24 meeting, Mr. Clay Smith, Solicitor, Department of Justice, told the Revenue Oversight Committee that in July 1991 the state appealed in the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals a U.S. District Court (Judge Jack Shanstrom) decision denying a motion to dismiss a complaint filed by the Crow Indian Tribe. The state argued that the Crow Tribe's complaint seeking a refund of approximately \$48 million in coal severance taxes and \$11 million in gross proceeds taxes did not state a claim. In July 1992, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal. As a result, the case is

back in the U.S. District Court for trial. Mr. Smith said that the Tribe is also seeking prejudgment interest that could make the total refund 2-to-3-times the \$48 million held in escrow. A similar impact would occur in Big Horn County for gross proceeds taxes. Although the state and Big Horn County would be liable for the prejudgment interest, the resolution of the case is expected take several years.

Agency Liquor Store Contracts on Hold...At the Committee's May 15 meeting, several state agency liquor store operators appeared before the Committee to complain about the Department of Revenue's policy regarding the rebidding of agency contracts. In particular, they claimed the Department had reneged on agreements to extend agency contracts. At that time, the Committee requested that the Department suspend the rebidding of agency contracts until after the next regular legislative session and to request an Attorney General's (AG) opinion on whether the Montana Procurement Act (MPA) applies to agency store contracts. During the July 1992 Special Session, the Legislature passed a bill (House Bill No. 48) that would have given bidding preference to existing agency operators. The bill was vetoed by the governor.

Mr. Denis Adams, Director, Department of Revenue, told the Committee that the Department has requested an AG's opinion on the applicability of MPA to agency store contracts. In addition, the Department will extend existing agency store contracts through May of 1993, provided the operator can meet the insurance and bonding requirements. Only agency stores that have closed will be advertised for bidding. The extension of agency contracts will allow the 53rd Legislature to address the several issues concerning agency stores.

Liquor Stores Closed on Blackfeet Reservation...Mr. Adams also reported that the agency stores in Browning and East Glacier have been closed and the liquor inventory removed because of disagreements with the Blackfeet Indian Tribe. The Tribe wants only one liquor store, located at Browning, on the reservation. The Tribe has also billed the Department for \$76,000 for past due business license taxes. Until the Tribe and the Department can reach some agreement, the store in Browning will remain closed.

Proposed Rules Presented...Mr. Gary Blewett of the Department's liquor division presented proposed liquor licensing premises rules, especially as they relate to the use of video gaming machines at convenience stores and other places not normally associated with the consumption of alcohol. He also reported on liquor licensing management agreement rules and rules dealing with what constitutes a "going establishment" for the continued operation of a liquor license.

Analysis of Montana's Corporation Income Tax Structure...As part of the HJR 55 tax study, Committee staff presented a report on the

corporation income tax structure in Montana. The report discussed the rationale for taxing corporate net income, described the level of corporate income tax collections since 1970, provided a brief overview of the tax structure, and compared the corporate income tax in Montana with several surrounding states. The report showed that between 1970 and 1981, total corporation income taxes in Montana increased steadily from \$9.5 million to \$52.9 million. Since 1982, corporation tax collections have exhibited the fluctuations normally associated with this tax. Measured as a share of total tax collections and as a share of total personal income, Montana is generally more reliant on this tax than surrounding states. Although the corporation income tax accounts for a relatively minor share of total state tax collections, interstate differences in the tax base, tax rates, the availability of tax credits, and the reliance on other taxes in surrounding states account for the greater reliance on the corporation income tax in Montana.

Impact of Senate Bill No. 226 Evaluated; New Law Upheld by District Court...In response to Davis v. Michigan, the 52nd Montana Legislature passed SB 226. The bill equalized the taxation of state and local, federal, and private pension income by exempting the first \$3,600 of pension income (the exemption is phased-out for income in excess of \$30,000) regardless of source. It also provided for an adjustment payment for Montana resident state and local retirees to offset taxes on previously exempt retirement income. An analysis of 1989 income tax data (the most recent year for which data is available on retirement income by retiree type) indicates that most Montana public retirees, taking into account the adjustment payment, are at least as well off under SB 226 as before its enactment. Federal retirees, because they lost the full exemption of retirement income, are worse off, while private retirees are little affected by the new law.

In a related matter, District Court Judge Thomas Honzel ruled against federal and state retirees who challenged the constitutionality of SB 226. The plaintiffs claimed, among other things, that the adjustment payment to state and local retirees and the phaseout of the \$3,600 exemption constituted discriminatory taxation of federal retirees; that state and local retirees have a vested right to receive their retirement income tax free; and that the limitation of the adjustment payment to Montana residents violated the constitutional right to reside in other states. Judge Honzel rejected all the plaintiffs' claims and upheld the new law.

Other Business...The Committee approved a bill draft clarifying the taxation of interstate motor vehicle fleets. The Committee also approved a bill draft transferring coal tax oversight duties to the Revenue Oversight Committee. Department of Revenue reports included:

- a summary of legislation passed during the July 1992 Special Session;

- two charts summarizing the provisions of HB 44 (the "seven-percent solution");
- an update on tax negotiations with Indian tribes;
- a progress report on the Department's reappraisal of real property in the state; and
- an update on the activities of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Next Meeting Is September 25...The Committee will meet at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, September 25 in Room 104 of the Capitol. Items on the agenda include a Department of Revenue report on value added taxation, a concluding report on the HJR 53 study of all aspects of taxation on Indian reservations, a review of the Montana Association of Counties' proposal to tax real and personal property at 100% of market value, and a summary of Department of Revenue "housecleaning" legislative proposals.

WATER POLICY COMMITTEE

To Meet Again in September... The next Water Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Friday, September 11, 1992 in Room 108 of the State Capitol.

Dam Safety Study...The Committee will address the dam insurance issue as well as finalize their recommendations to the Legislature. The final recommendations will be forwarded to interested individuals for one last round of public comment.

Water Reservation Study...The Committee has invited interested individuals to assist the Committee in determining whether the current water reservation process inhibits the construction of new storage facilities in Montana. The discussion will form the basis for the Committee's report to the Legislature.

Water User Fees Studies...The Committee will hear comments regarding the studies from the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The Committee will also consider its response to the studies and its final action.

Other Issues...The Committee will also receive updates on the Water Leasing Program, the upper Missouri River reservation process, activities of the Drought Advisory Committee, and the State Water Plan Water Quantity/Quality Final Plan Section adoption process.

For more information on these issues or the September meeting, please contact the EQC staff.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

Council Meets in August...The Environmental Quality Council (EQC) met August 25, 1992.

Energy Policy Study...The EQC's Residential Energy Efficiency working group has met three times, developed a draft policy statement for residential energy efficiency, and continues work on developing implementation strategies. The group hopes to complete its work by mid-November.

Lakeshore Development Study...The Council is circulating for comment draft legislation to generally amend the state's lakeshore statute, as well as several possible recommendations to address the issue of motorboat noise. At the next meeting, the Council will review comments received on these issues and evaluate options for water quality monitoring.

Nondegradation Policy...The Council continued its review of the state water quality nondegradation policy with a panel discussion including representatives from the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (DHES), Western Environmental Trade Association, the Northern Plains Resource Council, and attorney Alan Joscelyn. The panel discussed their interpretation of the current nondegradation statute, changes they would like to see in the policy, and the social, economic, and environmental implications of the policy. The Council will review the testimony and consider their options for future work on this issue at the next meeting. An unofficial transcription of this portion of the agenda is available in the EQC office, Room 106 of the State Capitol.

Radon Gas...The Council also heard a panel discussion on the problems associated with indoor radon gas. The DHES presented information regarding the potential health risks of radon gas and summarized soon-to-be-released research data on the extent of the problem in Montana. Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology personnel presented information on past and future research regarding radon in Montana including information on a proposed study looking at the potential radon

contamination of Montana's ground water. Representative Vicki Cocchiarella spoke to the Council regarding her concerns with the health and consumer protection issues surrounding radon. She cited examples of unscrupulous individuals providing nonexistent or wholly inadequate radon testing or mitigation services. She argued that these activities should be regulated to protect the public and asked the Council to support her efforts in the 1993 session. The Council asked to see her draft legislation at a future meeting for review and consideration.

Other Issues...Other issues on the agenda included updates on the EQC staff Montana Environmental Policy Act training program, the ground water assessment project, and the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks wildlife programmatic EIS project.

To Meet Again in October...The next EQC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 1992 in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

For more information regarding these issues, please contact the EQC staff.

DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Commission Completes Hearings for Three-fourths of the State...The Districting and Apportionment Commission has completed public hearings for 76% of the state's population. The Commission tentatively adopted plans on August 26 which include: Plan 100B for Liberty, Hill, Chouteau and Blaine counties; Plan 500 for Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt counties; Plan 100 for Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson counties; and Plan 100B for Wibaux, Fallon, Carter, Powder River, Prairie, Custer, Rosebud, Treasure and Big Horn counties. (Districts 153B and 155B will be adopted with Yellowstone County districts.)

Decisions for Central Montana to be Made in September...Public hearings were held August 26 - 28 for west central and central Montana. The decisions for those areas will be made in September.

Final Area Hearings to be Held in September...The next public hearings will be September 29 in Bozeman and September 30 in Billings. All public hearings will be held at 7:00 p.m. and the locations will be announced.

Maps of proposed plans will be mailed to the central committees and clerk and recorders approximately two weeks prior to the public hearings.

The Commission encourages legislators to meet with state and county central committees and with representatives of the other political party in order to be prepared for the public hearings.

9/29 Public hearing - Bozeman

HD 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82

9/30 Public hearing - Billings

HD 27, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99

Final Public Hearing Scheduled for November...The final public hearing on all 100 house districts is tentatively set for November 18 to correspond with legislative caucuses.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE-OWNED AIRCRAFT

Subcommittee Hears From State Agencies...The Subcommittee on State-Owned Aircraft held its second meeting on Tuesday, August 25. State agencies that own aircraft made presentations to the Subcommittee on their aircraft operations. Utilizing slides and videos, the agencies described the types of aircraft they own and the kinds of services they offer. They also discussed costs, pilot training, and use of charter services.

Subcommittee Discusses Charter Services...The Subcommittee heard staff reports on the availability of private charter services in Montana and the use of charter services by state agencies. It was revealed that many agencies do not have written policies regarding the use of charter services, and that agencies may not be aware that charter services are subject to the Montana Procurement Act. The Subcommittee asked staff to research the use of the procurement statutes for aircraft charters and aircraft maintenance contracts.

Subcommittee Hears About Insurance...George Harris, Administrator of Risk Management and Tort Defense for the Department of Administration, gave a presentation on aircraft insurance. The state currently carries liability and hull insurance on state-owned aircraft through a commercial insurance carrier. When asked about self-insurance, Mr. Harris replied that self-insurance for liability is too high and self-insurance for hull is not very feasible for Montana because the risk pool is too small. Subcommittee members expressed concern about how low the insurance deductibles are. Mr. Harris also expressed concern and stated that aircraft insurance will be bid out by the state this spring. The deductibles can be addressed at that time.

Subcommittee to Look at Passenger Transportation...The Subcommittee agreed that state agencies that own special purpose aircraft generally operate efficient programs. As a result, the Subcommittee decided to look at the issue of air transportation for state employees. One issue identified by the Subcommittee was the need for better coordination among agencies in the scheduling of charter flights. Staff was asked to research the possible use of the state electronic bulletin board as a coordination device.

Subcommittee to Meet One More Time...The Subcommittee will hold one more meeting on Thursday, September 24 in Room 104 of the State Capitol. The main topic on the agenda will be passenger transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Council Approves Budget Proposal...The Legislative Council met August 26 to review the budget proposal for the next biennium. The biennial budget, included in the general appropriations act, includes funding for Interim Studies and Conferences and Council Operations.

As approved by the Council, the Interim Studies and Conferences budget will include funding to support legislative interim studies, the Administrative Code Committee, Coal Tax Oversight Subcommittee, Revenue Oversight Committee, Indian Affairs Committee, Job Training Partnership Act Review (JTPA) Committee, Council of State Governments, National Conference of State Legislatures, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, and the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL).

While a budget was included for the Coal Tax Oversight Subcommittee, the Council recognized the fact that the Subcommittee was not funded after the last session and that the Revenue Oversight Committee intends to request a bill to consolidate the duties of the Subcommittee with those of the Revenue Oversight Committee. Should that legislation be adopted, the Coal Tax Oversight Subcommittee budget would be dropped.

Legislation has also been proposed by individual members of the JTPA to either eliminate or strengthen it. The need for and size of its budget will depend upon resolution of the question of its role and scope as outlined in the optional bills proposed.

The Council adopted a motion eliminating a discretionary "regional conferences" item in its budget in favor of full support for the Pacific Northwest Economic Region. The decision reflected a sense on the Council that the state's interests were better served in this manner. No funding for the Five-State Legislative Conference, Montana-Western Canadian Provinces Boundary Advisory Committee, or the Western States Legislative Forestry Task Force would thus be available. Legislation to

eliminate the Montana - Western Canadian Provinces Boundary Advisory Committee will be proposed.

The Council will also propose legislation to eliminate the Capitol Building and Planning Committee. A similar bill was introduced but not enacted in 1991. No budget is proposed for this long defunct entity.

The Council has included a budget for the NCCUSL as a consequence of legislative action in 1991 that transferred funding from the Governor's office to the Council. Legislation changing the appointing authority from the Governor to the Legislative Council to coordinate funding with authority will be proposed.

The Council Operations Program budget was approved for submission. The Council will take a final look at it in its September meeting. The principal change in that budget is the inclusion of the full implementation of the Legislative Branch Computer Network implementation within the Council budget. This budget centralizes current level branch computer network funding needs for all legislative agencies in the Capitol.

Office Space Discussed...Council staff space needs were discussed by the Council and staff was directed to analyze alternatives and bring back a proposal for making modest remodeling changes to existing space that would improve operations (not aesthetics).

Will Meet in September to Review Proposed Legislation...The Council has set its next meeting for Thursday, September 24 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 108 of the Capitol. The Council will review the bills outlined above as well as the following:

- 1) a bill modifying statutes as needed to account for the loss of a congressional district. Many appointments and similar provisions refer to geographical balance based on these districts.
- 2) a bill proposing a constitutional amendment to provide a uniform 10-day period for gubernatorial consideration of bills;
- 3) the Code Commissioner Bill;
- 4) a criminal procedure revision bill;
- 5) a bill revising the MCA copyright provisions; and
- 6) other suggested legislation.

The Council has also invited the Executive to bring "housekeeping" legislation identified through the budget development process to the Council so that the Council may consider requesting it for drafting. The administration has been cooperating on this proposal. The earlier legislation can be requested, the earlier it can be introduced and

considered. Legislators, administrators, lobbyists, and staff must work as one to get virtually all the bills introduced by the end of January.

LIBRARY

Reports of Commissioner of Political Practices Available...The Council Library has received copies of the annual reports of the Commissioner of Political Practices for fiscal years 1987 through 1991. Legislators wishing to obtain copies of these reports can contact the Commissioner's office at 444-2942 (1205 8th Ave., Helena, MT 59620-2401).

Corrected Finance and Claims Committee Minutes Being Mailed...Corrected microfiche containing the full set of minutes for the Senate Finance and Claims Committee during the January 1992 Special Session (including minutes for the first meeting on January 15) are now available. We are presently sending a copy of this microfiche to all who received copies of the previous version. Please contact the Library at 444-3064 if you have a set of the 1st Special Session minutes and have not received the updated version of Senate Finance and Claims minutes.

July Special Session Minutes Available Soon...The House minutes from the July Special Session are now on microfiche and Senate minutes are presently being received in the Library. The microfiche set of committee minutes for the 2nd Special Session should be available shortly. Please call the Library if you have any questions.

COMMITTEE ON THE MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL

Committee to Recommend Closure of Galen Acute Hospital...The Committee on the Montana State Hospital will recommend that the Galen acute hospital be closed. The vote to close the hospital, taken at the Committee's August 18 meeting, came after the Committee reviewed the reports of two independent physicians who conducted a peer review of 20 patient records at the Galen hospital and 36 charts of patients referred to outside facilities.

The Committee commissioned the independent review to determine the current capabilities of the Galen acute hospital, whether patients admitted received the level of care required, and whether patients referred to outside hospitals could have been treated at Galen. Both physicians concluded that the hospital could not provide acute care, that most of the patients served did not require acute care and thus received the

appropriate level of care, and that patients sent to outside hospitals were appropriately referred.

Four Committee members voted against the closure on the grounds that the state should operate an acute care facility, and that the current administration was not providing the hospital with adequate resources to perform its necessary function. A minority report will be included in the Committee's final report.

In May, the Committee voted 9 to 5 to recommend the closure of the nursing home at Galen.

Committee Explores Other Uses for Galen Facility...As directed by HB 966, the Committee also explored alternative future uses for the Galen facilities and heard presentations on the care of veterans and people with Alzheimer's Disease, AIDS, Tuberculosis, and traumatic brain injuries.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Legislature consider placing a veteran's home at Galen, constructing new buildings, or remodeling existing facilities.

Will Hold Final Meeting on September 29...The Committee's final meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 1992, in Room 104 of the State Capitol beginning at 9 a.m. This meeting will include a public hearing in the morning and an in-depth look at the mental health and treatment needs of children and adolescents that are currently being referred to out-of-state facilities.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Subcommittee Finishes Work...The Subcommittee on Public Employee Retirement Systems concluded its work August 3 and will recommend that the Legislature establish a permanent statutory retirement committee to review retirement proposals prior to each legislative session. The Subcommittee took no action on options for cost-of-living adjustments to retirees.

The Subcommittee's recommendation for a permanent retirement committee stems from a desire to establish a consistent, sound, and equitable retirement policy. The move was generally supported by the retirement systems and by retiree and employee organizations.

Subcommittee Approves Legislator's Retirement Systems Guide...Also approved by the Subcommittee was a legislator's guide to Montana's public employee retirement systems. The guide is to be published each

legislative session for legislators and interest groups dealing with retirement legislation.

Final Report Will Summarize Subcommittee Activities...The Subcommittee's final report will summarize the Subcommittee's deliberations and findings, including an analysis of cost-of-living adjustment options prepared for the Subcommittee by actuary Alton Hendrickson.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANDATED HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

Subcommittee Proposes Legislation...The Subcommittee on Mandated Health Benefits held its last meeting on Tuesday, August 10 by telephone conference call. The main topic of discussion was the proposal to create a mandated benefits review commission. The Subcommittee discussed changes to the proposal recommended during the public comment period in May. The Subcommittee voted to restrict the term of office for legislative members to two years and to remove language requiring the appointment of a "hold-over" senator. Staff was directed to draft the appropriate legislation and circulate it among the Subcommittee members.

Hears Proposal From Health Care for Montanans...Hank Hudson, deputy director of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, discussed a proposal from Health Care for Montanans to create a health care commission whose responsibilities could include the review of mandated health benefits. Mr. Hudson was concerned about the duplication that might occur with these two commissions. After some discussion, the Subcommittee decided that the review function might be diluted if included in a health care commission with such broad responsibilities as outlined by Mr. Hudson. The Subcommittee also felt that its proposal was a legislative function while the Health Care for Montanans proposal was an executive function. As a result, the Subcommittee decided to proceed with its own review commission. proposal.



INTERIM CALENDAR

September 7, Labor Day, holiday

September 11, Water Policy Committee, 9:00 a.m., Room 108

SEPTEMBER 15 ALL INTERIM STUDY WORK COMPLETED

September 18, Subcommittee on School Funding, 9:00 a.m., Room 104

September 24, Subcommittee on State-Owned Aircraft, 9:00 a.m., Room 104

September 24, Legislative Council, 9:00 a.m., Room 108

September 25, Revenue Oversight Committee, 9:15 a.m., Room 104

September 28, Legislative Finance Committee, 9:00 a.m., Room 104

September 29, Committee on Montana State Hospital, 9:00 a.m., Room 104

September 29, Districting and Apportionment Commission Public Hearing, 7:00 p.m., Bozeman

September 30, Districting and Apportionment Commission Public Hearing, 7:00 p.m., Billings

October 6, Environmental Quality Council, Room 104

October 9, Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget

October 12, Columbus Day, holiday

November 3, General Election day, holiday

November 11, Veterans Day, holiday

November 18, Districting and Apportionment Commission Public Hearing, Helena

November 20 and 21, Revenue Oversight Committee, Room 104

November 26, Thanksgiving Day, holiday

December 25, Christmas Day, holiday

. 1993

January 1, New Year's Day, holiday

January 4, 53rd Legislature convenes

350 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$.36 per copy, for a total cost of \$125.00 which includes \$125.00 for printing and \$.00 for distribution.

Montana Legislative Council
State Capitol Room 138
Helena MT 59620

